taking into account the aspiration of the people of the North Eastern Region and the resource pontenial of the Region for the development of infrastructure and generation of employment.

(c) and (d) In order to augment the availability of resources and to bring in improved technology for the development of infrastructure, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has taken the initiative for taking up externally aided projects in six Core Sectors which include Road Network, Urban Area Development, Trade & Development, Water Resource Management, Tourism Infrastructure Development and Energy with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank/World Bank. Technical Assistance of $ 0.80 million and $ 2.00 million has been sanctioned by the ADB for the two projects of Road Network and Urban Development respectively and the preliminary studies for both these projects have since been commenced.

Funds for NER from non-lapsable pool

3258. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the basis of allocation of funds to the North-Eastern States from the non-lapsable pool of resources;

(b) the amount sanctioned to the different States of NER from NLCPR in the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(c) whether the States have spent the sanctioned funds and submitted utilisation certificates in time; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to mobilise more funds for the States in the year 2005-06 under the head NLCPR?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) was created to sanction and fund projects for the development of socio-economic infrastructure in the North Eastern Region in accordance with the guidelines framed for this purpose. Accordingly, State Governments of the NE Region have to submit a prioritized list of such projects on yearly basis. An inter-ministerial NLCPR Committee screens these projects for detailed examination and sanction. The basis for selection of projects and allocation of funds for implementation of such

projects for various NE States includes the need and nature of the project, population and area of the State, special socio-economic factors of a State or a region and the progress of utilization of funds released in the past for such projects. Efforts are made to ensure that the over all allocation of funds to various States is equitable.

(b) Amount released to the State Government under NLCPR in the years 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 is as under:

State	Amount Released (in crore rupees)		
	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Arunachal Pradesh	52.65	61.19	39.43
Assam	140.07	113.94	249.07*
Manipur	74.93	18.05	58.98
Meghalaya	23.77	49.99	21.71
Mizoram	83.43	99.55	42.38
Nagaland	70.85	84.17	73.06
Sikkim	44.19	53.24	59.75
Tripura	60.11	69.87	105.62
TOTAL	550.00	550.00	650.00

* This also includes Rs. 100 crores for BTC as a part of Memorandum of Settlement signed between Government of India, Government of Assam and Bodo Liberation Tigers in February, 2003.

(c) The State Governments are required to utilize the released amount within a period of nine months from the date of release of funds from Government of India. This period for submission of utilization certificates is not strictly adhered to in many cases by the States.

(d) The funds to the State Governments for NLCPR projects during 2005-2006 are proposed to be released as per the budgetary allocation made for the year in accordance with the procedure stipulated in the guidelines.